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## Gov't panel approves Har Homa

### Decision

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

A government panel unanimously approved the controversial plan yesterday to build 6,500 Jewish homes on Har Homa, in addition to construction of more housing for Arabs in Jerusalem.

**Har Homa is thorn in PA's side, Page 2**

The decision came after a reportedly unified assessment from intelligence officials during yesterday's meeting that there would not be organized Palestinian violence - at least in the short term - despite heated opposition to the project from Arabs and the world.

The 12 members of the ministerial panel on Jerusalem, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, approved the project during a three-and-a-half-hour session. The plans call for what will ultimately be 6,500 units in the southeastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Har Homa, of which 2,450 will be completed in the first three years. In parallel, the government said it would start building 3,015 units for Palestinians in 10 existing neighborhoods within the city limits, though it will boost that to 9,000 units over an unspecified time.

While peace activists said they would try to halt construction by petitioning the High Court of Justice, David Bar-Ilan, a top Netanyahu aide, said yesterday, "I think the tractors will be on the ground in Har Homa within the next week or two."

In an unusual news conference that Netanyahu and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert conducted for Arab reporters immediately after the decision, the premier indicated that any Arab violence would be met with force. "We are prepared. We are resolute. We are taking necessary precautions," he said.

When asked if there was a deal whereby the Palestinians would not engage in violence in return for Israel increasing the scope of the March 7 pullback, Netanyahu said, "there is no deal."

As first reported in *The Jerusalem Post* last week, officials do not rule out an implicit understanding with the Palestinians involving acquiescence to Har Homa in return for a broader pullback than originally envisioned. US officials are said to favor a 10 percent pullback in the West Bank, while Israel originally wanted 2%.

The IDF and police went on alert and sent in reinforcements to Jerusalem and areas along the border with the territories.

OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan revealed yesterday that the IDF has concentrated forces in certain areas to be ready for any eventualities.

"We have not brought in reinforcements, but we have concentrated forces in areas where its necessary," Dayan told reporters on the Golan Heights yesterday, where he observed the conclusion of a training exercise.

There was particular attention yesterday to whether the decision would incite the type of violence triggered by the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit in September.

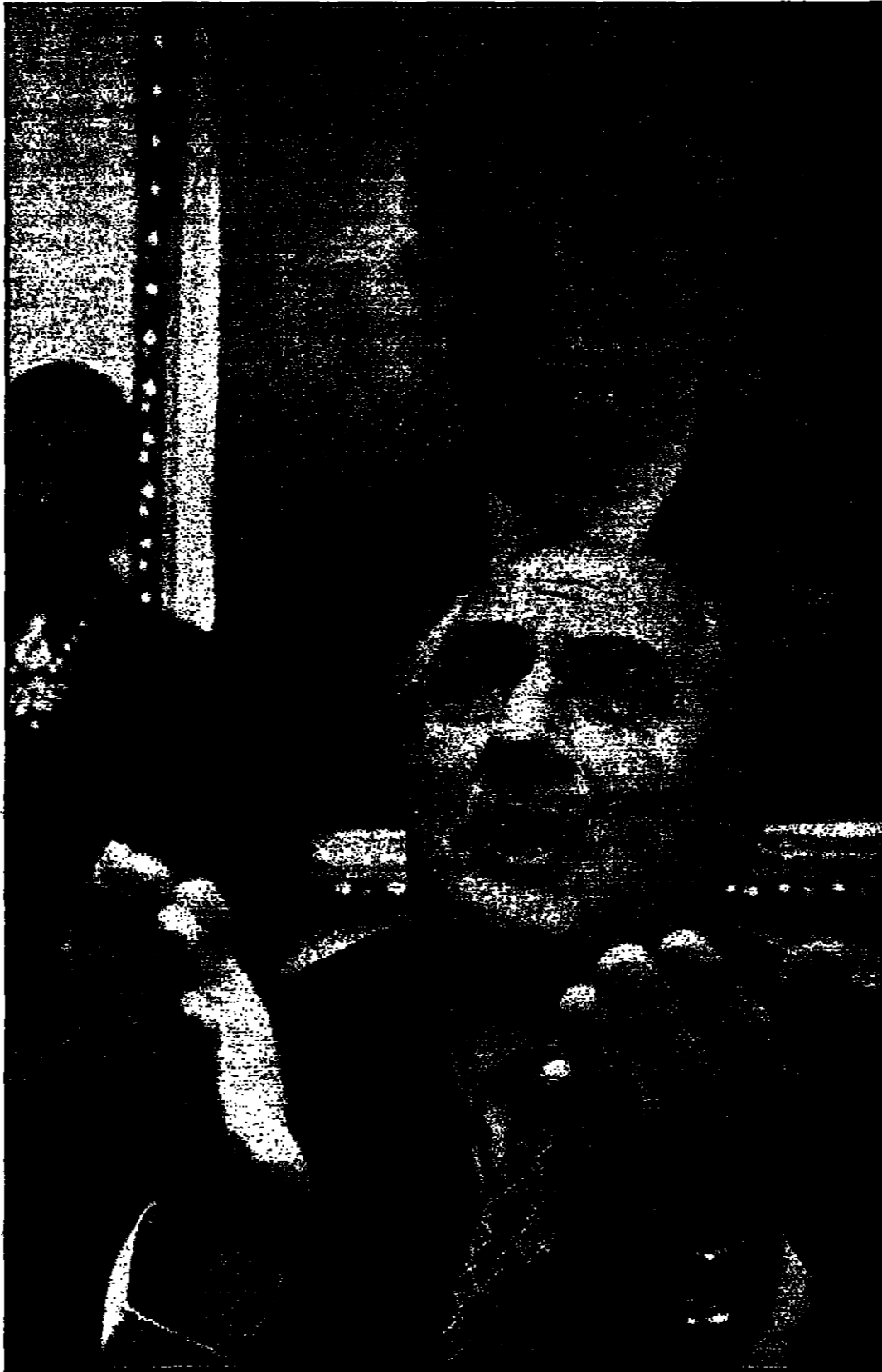
General Security Service head Ami Ayalon has repeatedly warned in the past that Israeli action in Har Homa could trigger violence. But two different participants insisted during yesterday's session that the intelligence community - including Ayalon - said they did not expect any trouble at least until mid-March.

Several reasons were given. First, they do not believe Arafat wants to endanger the first pullback, scheduled for early next month.

Second, present conditions are different from last September. Then there was no progress on the peace process and economic conditions were worse for Palestinians as the closure on the territories was almost complete.

Third, officials don't think Arafat wants violence as he prepares for his March visit to Washington.

Fourth, the Egyptians, who had been stiffening Palestinian demands during the Hebron talks, have apparently been counselling caution. "We think those favoring caution have an upper hand on those favoring violence," cabinet secretary Danny Navet said yesterday.



Faisal Husseini, the PA's top official on Jerusalem, sits beneath a portrait of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin during a visit yesterday to the Knesset while his bodyguard looks on. (Story, Page 2) (Reuters)

## US raps decision

By HILLEL KUTTLER, JON NIMANUEL and news agencies

The United States expressed "disappointment" yesterday over Israel's decision to go ahead with construction at Har Homa.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters that the move "is not one that will build trust and confidence," which he said ought to be the cornerstone of the Israel-Palestinian Authority relationship.

"Frankly, the US would have preferred a different decision. We would have preferred that this decision not have been taken," he said.

At the same time, Burns called on the PA not to escalate the situation, saying that threats of violence are "the language of the past."

"The US would obviously like to see calm in the occupied territories, in Jerusalem and throughout Israel," Burns stated. "We'd like to see a disagreement on any

issue, including this issue, resolved peacefully between the Palestinians and the Israelis. And we reject those who call for violence - those on either side, Israelis or Palestinians."

The situation is sure to be discussed during PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Washington early next week.

US Consul General in Jerusalem Edward Abington said before the decision that the housing plan and other settlement activity would create a "very, very volatile situation." He said the US sent messages to Israel and Arafat that "we do not want to see any violence" after Israel approves the project.

Arafat called on the UN Security Council and the Arab League to help stop the construction in Har Homa.

Arafat, who returned from a meeting of the Higher Jerusalem committee in Morocco yesterday,

Continued on Page 2

## Har Homa facts

Har Homa comprises 1,850 scenic dunams located in the southeastern reaches of the capital.

Israeli officials describe the location as between Ramat Rachel and Gilo, in an effort to link it to the Jewish neighborhoods of the city. Palestinians describe it as between Umm Tuba and Beit Sahur, to emphasize the Palestinian surroundings.

The wooded hill where much of the neighborhood will be built is visible to the east as one approaches the IDF roadblock to Bethlehem.

The ministerial committee on Jerusalem yesterday approved the overall construction of 6,500 units, to be carried out in two stages. The first stage, to begin after the final permit is signed by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, will include some 2,450 units. Yishai is signing the final order, rather than Interior Minister Eli Suissa, because Suissa was involved in the original planning of the neighborhood.

In 1991, then finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i signed an order expropriating the land for reasons of "eminent domain," which allows expropriation of land from private owners for public use.

Most of the area - 1,400 dunams - was expropriated from Jewish landowners, while the other 450 dunams were expropriated from Arab landowners.

The High Court of Justice rejected appeals by both Jewish and Arab landowners and approved the expropriations. Peace Now has said that it will once again challenge the construction of the neighborhood in the High Court.

The committee yesterday also decided to build 3,000 housing units in 10 Arab neighborhoods simultaneously with the Har Homa project.

Compiled by Herb Keiron

## Flatow files \$150m. suit against Iran for daughter's death

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - The father of Alisa Flatow, an American student killed nearly two years ago in a suicide bus bombing in the Gaza Strip, filed a \$150 million damages suit against Iran yesterday in a US federal court.

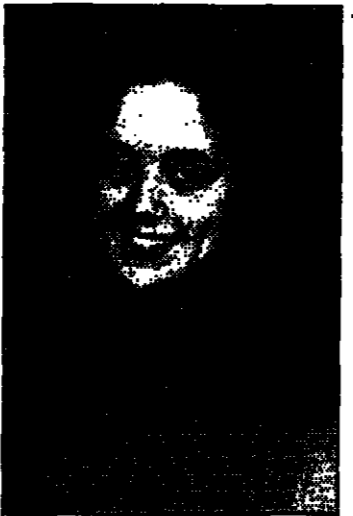
The suit charges that Iran is culpable for Alisa's death due to its underwriting of Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for the April 9, 1995, attack.

"My family has no illusions about the road ahead of us. But we must take a first step," Stephen Flatow told journalists at a press conference.

Flatow said he was not seeking revenge, only justice, for the death of his daughter, who was 20.

Flatow's lawyer, Steven Perles, estimated that even if the case comes to trial, the process could take up to seven years to adjudicate.

He said the lawsuit seeks \$50 million in compensatory damages and \$100 million in punitive damages. Any judgment for the family could be paid through frozen Iranian assets in the



Alisa Flatow (AP)

United States, he said.

Senator Frank Lautenberg, who represents the Flatows' home state of New Jersey, helped pass an amendment last year that enables the case to proceed. He said yesterday he hopes it deters states from sponsoring terrorism because of the financial risk involved.

"There is no doubt that the funding spigot for international terrorism is in Iran," Lautenberg said. "Those officials need to be held accountable."

## Shas ministers queried in Bar-On probe

### BAR-ON

them for this afterwards. Police also wanted to ask the two whether Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri pressured them or instructed them to vote for the appointment.

Police also sought to corroborate and verify the version of events the two ministers had stated in the press - that they learned of the Bar-On appointment only when it was brought up at the cabinet meeting. Police want to know whether the ministers learned of the Bar-On appointment a few days before it was approved, either from Deri or others.

Testimony collected by police suggests a version of events concerning the votes of the two Shas ministers different than the one

**Story behind attacks on Barak, Page 12**

Yishai and Suissa recounted in the media.

Bar-On was questioned by police again yesterday at his home. Two days ago, police took documents from Bar-On's home. The main



Eli Suissa

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The two Shas ministers, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai and Interior Minister Eli Suissa, were questioned last night at National Police Headquarters in Jerusalem by the team investigating the Bar-On affair.

Police investigators asked the two ministers about the circumstances of their vote in the cabinet meeting in which it was decided to appoint Roni Bar-On as attorney-general.

The two apparently supported the appointment without having consulted Shas mentor Ovadia Yosef, who reportedly censured



Eli Yishai

focus of the investigation of Bar-On himself now centers on the circumstances under which he met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last November.

David Agmon, Netanyahu's former bureau chief, also gave testimony to police this week.

The police investigation into the Bar-On affair is now in its fifth week. Some 30 people have been questioned, several under caution.

This week, several central figures in the investigation are to be questioned again, this time under caution, including Netanyahu, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

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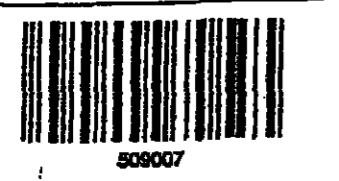
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# Panel: Friedman mentally unstable

By Jerusalem Post Staff and Ilin

Due to his unstable mental state, Noam Friedman should not be held accountable for opening fire on Palestinians in the center of Hebron, the committee the IDF appointed to look into the shooting recommended yesterday. The committee of three psychiatrists said that Friedman should be hospitalized.

A military court will decide today whether Friedman should face criminal charges for the incident. However, the committee was appointed with the understanding that the court would accept its recommendations on Friedman's mental fitness.

The IDF is still checking how and why Friedman, who has been hospitalized in the past for his mental problems, was drafted.

On January 1, Friedman, a 19-year-old soldier from Ma'aleh Adumim serving in a logistical unit based near Jerusalem, opened fire in the Hebron casbah, injuring six Palestinians before another soldier wrestled him to the ground.



### Afternoon off

Convicted murderer Ami Popper (center) leaves Ayalon Prison for a few hours yesterday afternoon to attend his son's brit mila in Bnei Brak. This is the first time he was allowed out since being sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering seven Arabs in Rishon LeZion in 1990.

(Yossi Aloni, courtesy of 'Ma'ariv')

## US Jew accused of planting bomb before Peres speech

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP) — Bail was set at \$1 million yesterday for an Orthodox man accused of planting a bomb in a synagogue before a speech by former prime minister Shimon Peres and blaming the act on an Islamic group.

Harry Shapiro, a 31-year-old former kosher butcher and theological student, was charged Tuesday with placing a destructive device and making a bomb threat. Police searched his home again yesterday.

Shapiro, who attends another synagogue, did not speak during his first court appearance yesterday. Duval County Judge Karen Cole set bail at \$1 million and scheduled Shapiro's next court appearance for March 13. He rejected the argument by Shapiro's lawyer, Hank Cox, that a \$1 million bond was tantamount to no bond.

Shapiro called police with a bomb threat on February 13, the day Peres spoke at the Jacksonville Jewish Center before 1,500 people, police said. The caller, who warned of the bomb hours before the speech, identified himself as "the American fringe of Islamic Jihad." Police searched

the building before the speech, but the bomb was not found and the talk went on without incident.

Nine days after the speech, three children attending a hunchen after a bat mitzvah found the bomb in a hallway behind the temple's sanctuary and tried to tear the tape-off the package's casing.

An adult grabbed the device and rushed it outside. Police arrived, evacuated about 750 people and detonated the bomb.

Police had gotten tips that Shapiro was the caller and he surrendered Monday night.

After Shapiro's arrest, he was hospitalized. He later was jailed without bond.

Shapiro ran a kosher butcher shop in Jacksonville for about two years until 1993. Before that, he had worked at a kosher shop in New York City, police said.

After his Jacksonville shop closed because of financial troubles, he went back to New York to pursue rabbinical studies, *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

Shapiro returned to Jacksonville last November and had worked as a gas station cashier. He lives about 1 1/2 blocks from the Jewish Center.

## NBC screening of 'Schindler's List' creates controversy

By TOM GROSS

Over 65 million American television viewers, more than twice the number expected, watched NBC's screening of Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* on Sunday evening, according to initial audience figures released by the network.

The three-hour Oscar-winning black and white film about the Holocaust was shown during prime time without commercial breaks.

However, NBC came under sharp criticism by a leading Republican congressman.

"This makes an all-time low [for network television], with full frontal nudity, violence and profanity being shown in our homes," Representative Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, who co-chairs the Congressional Family Caucus, was reported as saying in a statement released by his Oklahoma office.

Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York called

Coburn's statement "shocking." "To equate the nudity of the Holocaust victims in the concentration camp with any sexual connotations is outrageous and offensive," he said.

The broadcast was sponsored by Ford, which agreed that there should be no ads in return for being allowed to display its logo during several silent intermissions during the screening.

NBC estimates the \$10 million Ford paid represents about half the advertising revenue it would have made during this time.

"We as broadcasters should not be pressured into putting on bland, non-controversial programming to appease the over-zealous watchdogs who would like to control what the American public views," said NBC West Coast president Don Ohlmeyer.

Prior to Sunday's screening an estimated 200 million people worldwide had watched *Schindler's List* at the cinema or on video, of which about 30 million were Americans.

## Study: Courts biased against women

By ESTHER HECHT

When a man kills a woman, he can expect a lighter sentence than a man who kills another man. And when a woman's killer is a relative, the murderer can expect a lighter sentence than a killer who is a total stranger.

These were among the startling findings presented at a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday by Dr. Bryna Bogoch, a sociologist at Bar-Ilan University, and lawyer Rochelle Don-Yechiya.

In their study "Gender and the Administration of Justice in Israeli Courts," they examined the ways in which the gender of the main players in the courtroom drama — the judge, the lawyers, the victim and the

defendant — affect a criminal trial and its final outcome.

They examined over 1,100 judicial decisions from the Supreme Court, district courts and magistrate's courts between 1988 and 1993.

"This discrimination is not a matter of policy," said Rivka Meller-Olshitzky of the Israel Women's Network, which initiated the study. Instead, the findings reflect stereotypes that members of the legal profession are generally not aware of. The purpose of the study was to bring these to light so they could be corrected, she said.

Sentences tend to be very lenient for sexual offenses, in which most victims are women, the researchers found.

When the defendant is a

woman, it is harder for her than for a man to be acquitted on the basis of reasonable doubt. Women accused of very serious offenses are also judged more harshly than men.

Ironically, women judges — whether judging alone or in a panel — imposed lower sentences on those convicted of sexual offenses than on those convicted of bodily harm.

The researchers' findings found fault primarily with the lower courts, Meller-Olshitzky said. The Supreme Court suffers from less gender bias.

Meller-Olshitzky said Supreme Court President Aharon Barak responded to its findings by promising to set up a committee of judges to study ways to correct the bias it revealed.

## Plastic surgeon reattaches baby's arm

By JUDY SEGEL

The arm of a one-year-old Jericho baby, who was run over by a tractor while his parents were picking oranges, was recently successfully reattached by a surgeon at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital.

The microsurgery, which is believed to have restored his ability to feel and move the limb, succeeded despite the fact that the infant's arm lacked blood supply for 10 hours.

The baby, Abed Saladich, arrived at Shaare Zedek about two weeks ago with only a flap of skin connecting the amputated right arm four centimeters below his shoulder.

He was first rushed by his parents to Ramallah Hospital, which has no microsurgery expert. After several hours without getting the appropriate treatment, he was taken by ambulance to Shaare Zedek.

Dr. Binyamina Rosenberg-Hagen, one of the country's four experts on microsurgery, per-



Abed Saladich recovers at Shaare Zedek Hospital on Tuesday after undergoing microsurgery. (Yoram Amir)

microscope magnifies the area 20 to 40 times. First we connect the pieces of bones so they don't move, and then painstakingly sew together the blood vessels, nerves, muscles, tendons and skin."

The results of reattaching limbs and digits are much more successful in children than adults, and even more so in infants than older children, she said. Successful surgery allows the limb to grow with the child, and restores the sense of feeling and ability to move the arm.

There are only about 50 cases of accidental amputation of limbs and digits in the country each year, the doctor noted.

The baby's parents, who had turned an orange crate into a baby bed in the field, were shocked by the injury and very grateful to the hospital for the treatment.

"We're very glad that the arm is recovering despite the very long period when it was without blood supply," Rosenberg-Hagen said. "This is very rare. We believe he'll be completely normal, and that the arm will look fine."

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## NEWS

in brief

### High Court hears petition against Shaki

The High Court of Justice yesterday heard the Movement for Quality Government in Israel's petition for it to overrule former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair's decision not to bring MK Avner Shaki (NRP) to trial. Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Yaacov Turkel and Tova Strasberg-Cohen are to give a decision.

The case involves three allocations made in 1990 by the ministerial committee on requests, of which Shaki, then-religious affairs minister, was a member. He recommended allocations totaling NIS 820,000 to three institutions run by his family members and political associates, without informing the committee of his connections to the institutions. *Ilin*

### Remands extended in bribery case

Yishai Kraniel, 45, of Herzliya, Ya'acov Siviv, 45, of Ramat Gan, Mordechai Iluz, 38, of Jerusalem, and Doron Chen, 32, of Netanya, had their remands extended for a week by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. Kraniel, Siviv and Iluz ran an accounting company, though none of them are accountants. They are accused of bribing income-tax officials, including Chen, to lower their tax assessments and provide them with classified information. Chen is accused of lowering their tax assessments by hundreds of thousands of shekels in exchange for thousands of shekels, as well as drugs. *Ilin*

### Israel Prize winners in music named

The Israel Prize winners for musical scholarship this year are three prolific composers, Prof. Andre Hajdu, Prof. Abel Ehrlich, and Ben Zion Orgad, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer announced yesterday.

Hajdu is being honored for his tremendous contribution to Israeli music, the judges said. Ehrlich was noted as being "among the top ranks of Israeli composers for 50 years." Orgad is "one of Israel's leading composers, who has produced continuously since 1947," the committee noted in its decision. The works of the three have been performed here and abroad. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Bus fares up

Public transportation fees will increase an average of 4 percent on March 1, in accordance with a government-approved biannual adjustment for inflation. However, the prices will be reduced on more than 100 intercity routes, to correct a discrepancy in fares that has arisen in the past few years. A bus ride in the Tel Aviv area, Jerusalem or Haifa will cost NIS 3.90, up from NIS 3.70, while in other towns and cities the fare will be NIS 3.30, up from NIS 3.20. Monthly bus passes in Jerusalem and Haifa will rise to NIS 156, and in Tel Aviv to NIS 144. The fare on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv line will rise to NIS 16.50, from NIS 16. However, the price on the Jerusalem-Holon, Bat Yam and Petah Tikva lines will drop from NIS 19.50 to NIS 18.50. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### 71-year-old becomes oldest kidney recipient

A 71-year-old man, whose kidneys were injured during army service, yesterday became the oldest Israeli to get a kidney transplant, according to the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus. The prognosis is good for the man, who has undergone dialysis for the past five years, the hospital said. *Judy Siegal*

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# Arson damages Warsaw synagogue

### News agencies

**WARSAW** - An apparent arson attack early yesterday devastated part of Warsaw's only synagogue, arousing shock in a city whose Jewish population was murdered by Poland's Nazi invaders.

"I have seen synagogues go up in flames before... such events reopen wounds which had begun to heal a little," Poland's Chief Rabbi Menachem Jankowicz, who survived Auschwitz death camp, told a news conference.

Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski said it was an act of barbarism and vowed that such actions would be prosecuted with the full force of the law.

The fire destroyed two doors and blackened an entrance hall of the Nozyk synagogue, leaders of the congregation said.

The janitor was treated for inhaling fumes and "all indications suggest it was attempted arson," Konstanty Gebert, one of the synagogue's 1,000 members, told reporters.

Another man at the synagogue when the fire started around midnight was not hurt, Gebert said. The congregation received a bomb threat phone call two days before, he said.

There were 3.5 million Jews in Poland before World War II, but most were killed in the gas chambers of the Nazi death camps. Pawel Wildstein, leader of the Warsaw congregation, estimates that there are just over 10,000 Jews in Poland now.

Joskowicz said the fire damage was "a great loss" but he had no

estimate.

Two burned-out metal cans were found inside the vestibule and a sack of sawdust was lying outside the synagogue, Gebert said.

The cans were probably thrown in through a window over the unused main entrance door. The sand-colored, sparsely ornamented synagogue is usually entered through another door.

The simply-carved heavy wooden door at the main entrance, and another set of wooden doors were completely burned, and plaster fell off the blackened vestibule ceiling.

Founded by the Nozyk family in 1902, the synagogue stands in the former Jewish district of Warsaw, next to the state-run Jewish Theater.

During the war, the Nazis used it as a stable and then destroyed it. Communist authorities rebuilt it in 1983 and it has been used since.

Rabbi Michael Schudrich, head of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation that sponsors programs to rebuild Jewish life and culture in Poland, said of the arson, "There are some elements in Poland who do not want to see democracy and pluralism blossom."

"They will not succeed in making us feel afraid that we are Jewish," he said, and appealed to "all good citizens of Warsaw" to join the congregation in prayer last night to show the "true heart, the true face of Poland." Radio stations broadcast the appeal.

"Our initial conclusions show the cause was probably arson," Warsaw police press officer Tomasz Grzelewski said.

"It had to be some inflammable substance thrown in through a

window over the entrance," he said, adding that it was too early to reveal theories about who was responsible.

The fire was spotted by an employee of a Jewish charity sleeping in a nearby building and by a policeman posted outside the Jewish Theater on a city square some meters away, who both summoned help.

Quick action by the fire brigade stopped the flames from engulfing the building's main prayer hall, they said.

Two days before the fire an anonymous telephone caller to the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, a Jewish educational charity represented by Rabbi Schudrich, had threatened "a bomb has been planted or will be planted very soon." The synagogue stands only a few blocks from the site of the hellish Warsaw Ghetto.

Many thousands of Holocaust survivors later emigrated in waves, in part prompted by antisemitic episodes such as the 1946 pogrom in the city of Kielce and an "anti-Zionist" campaign launched by a faction of the Communist party in 1968.

While there are some tiny extremist groups hostile to minorities, all mainstream Polish parties condemn antisemitism and democratic governments since the 1989 fall of communism have sought to improve ties with Jews and Israel.

"Poles want to build good, friendly relations with Jews in Poland and around the world. Criminal behavior by individuals cannot disrupt this," Kwasniewski said in his statement.



A visitor photographs the damage caused by a fire at the Nozyk synagogue in Warsaw early yesterday.

He said the attack was especially painful to the Poles as it was aimed against a community that had lived in the country for 800 years before falling victim to genocide.

But some figures on the fringes of right-leaning parties have made

remarks insulting to Jews in recent years - notably Henryk Jankowski, a priest linked with the Solidarity union.

Jewish leaders said a failure by these parties and society to condemn such remarks strongly might create an atmosphere in which antisemitic attacks would be more likely.

"The remarks are met with deafening silence," Gebert, the editor of a Jewish monthly, said outside the synagogue.

A bomb last year smashed windows of Warsaw's kosher restaurant, also near the synagogue, but the motive or exact target of the attack have not so far been explained.

Schudrich called on police to step up patrols of the area around the synagogue, housing key sites of Warsaw Jewish life.

(AP)

## US defense secretary's brother shoots man

**BREWER, Maine (AP)** - The brother of Defense Secretary William Cohen shot another man who was in the brother's home, police said yesterday.

Michael Chasie, 22, was wounded in the neck Tuesday night with a small-caliber handgun at the home of Robert Cohen, police said. Chasie was listed in fair condition yesterday at a local hospital.

"Right now, we're basically trying to determine whether the homeowner, Robert Cohen, was justified in using deadly force," Police Chief Steve Barker said.

Barker said police had not determined whether Chasie was an intruder in the ranch-style home.

"We're not contemplating charges against anyone at this point," the chief added.

At least two shots were fired,

though just one wound was found, police said.

Police said they had talked to Cohen but gave few other details in the shooting in a middle-class neighborhood in a town of 9,000 people.

The defense secretary was in Washington at the time. He and his wife attended a dinner Tuesday evening at the Corcoran Art Gallery in honor of Prince Sultan, the visiting Saudi defense minister. The event ended shortly before 10 p.m., or just about the time the shooting was reported.

William Cohen, who served Maine in the U.S. House and Senate for 24 years before announcing his retirement last year, won easy Senate confirmation as defense secretary in January.

## Bus bombs in China kill 4

**BEIJING (Reuters)** - Three time-bombs planted on buses blew up in rapid succession in China's restive far west, killing at least four people and shattering the nation's calm in the delicate aftermath of the death of patriarch Deng Xiaoping.

Police patrolled streets and checked suspicious bags and packages yesterday in Urumqi, capital of the mainly Moslem region of Xinjiang, following the blasts in the city the previous evening.

"I think at least four to five people were killed, including one child who died instantly," said a Xinjiang television station official, who declined to be identified.

"People are full of fear, and the city is on high alert," said the TV station official.

Foreign Minister David Levy, who is visiting Beijing, said Chinese leaders expressed concern to him over the threat from

Islamic fundamentalism.

"I think we have a very similar view on this," Levy said.

"Every attempt to turn religion into a weapon becomes extremely dangerous, it is something that knows no boundaries," he said. "It is like sand, it can be transported by the wind from one place to another."

The blasts, which officials said injured at least 60, occurred within minutes in separate parts of the city, which is the center of Chinese control over the region and its ethnic Uighur population.

The explosions occurred on the same day as the final rites were being observed in far-off Beijing for Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader who strictly enforced the integrity of China against separatist threats.

In an ironic twist, one bomb went off on Tuanjie (Unity) Street. A fourth was found before it detonated, a local official said.

Despite the widespread fear of further unrest, state media in Urumqi and elsewhere in the country have not reported the incidents.

"Everybody knows about it but nothing has been said officially," said a local resident contacted by telephone.

It was the first known violence in Xinjiang, a region that Moslem separatists call East Turkestan, since anti-Chinese riots in Yining on February 5 and 6 left nine people dead. No one claimed responsibility.

Xinjiang, bordering Afghanistan, Pakistan and three mostly Moslem Central Asian states, was shaken last year by attacks on officials and Moslem leaders regarded as pro-Berling.

The bombs exploded around 6:40 p.m., the TV official said, "and people in Urumqi usually finish work at seven, so not many were injured or killed," the TV official said.

## Antisemitic incidents in US continue decline

### By HILLEL KUTTNER

**WASHINGTON** - Antisemitic incidents in the US in 1996 declined for the second consecutive year and hit their lowest mark since 1990, according to an annual audit released yesterday by the Anti-Defamation League.

Among the 1,722 incidents were 941 cases of harassment, threats or assault, and 781 acts of vandalism. The latter included a bomb that went off at a Jewish center in New York, six arson attacks against Jewish property in five states and a BB-gun attack against worshippers at a Milwaukee synagogue.

The ADL released the report at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

Compared to 1995, cases of harassment and the like declined by 175, while vandalism increased by 54. The drop "mirrors the continuing drop in crime that has been reported" to the authorities nation-

wide the ADL stated.

New York, New Jersey, California, Massachusetts and Florida - all of which have Jewish population centers - registered the most antisemitic incidents for the year.

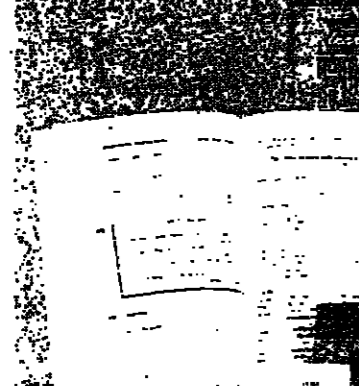
"Hate group activity in 1996 continued to pose a serious threat of violence and ethnic intimidation in the US," the ADL report stated. "Violent incidents of the past few years offer compelling evidence of the tenacity of hate."

The organization said that the Internet has become a major purveyor of antisemitic and Holocaust denial propaganda.

ADL national director Abraham Foxman said in a statement that in cyberspace, "antisemites, racists and bigots are having a field day."

"Electronic hate is the dark side of technology, and antisemites have particularly taken to the medium. Our challenge is to reach millions of computer users with messages of truth and tolerance."

## US defense secretary's brother shoots man



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## Du Pont guilty but schizoid

**MEDIA, Pennsylvania (AP)** - Multimillionaire John E. du Pont has been found guilty of murder, but jurors spared him a possible life sentence, deciding that mental illness played a role in his fatal shooting of an Olympic wrestler.

The jurors decided after a week deliberating that du Pont committed third-degree murder, or murder with malice but without premeditated intent - but he was also mentally ill.

Four defense psychiatrists had testified that du Pont's mind was racked by paranoid schizophrenia, distorting his perception of reality and making him believe Schultz was an agent of an international conspiracy to kill him. He believed he was the Dalai Lama, the Child Jesus, the president of Bulgaria and other grandiose figures.

The conviction means du Pont will likely spend time in a mental hospital and then begin serving a prison sentence of up to 20 to 40 years, if and when he is deemed cured. However, because du Pont has no prior record, he could be freed on parole after as little as five years in custody.

Judge Patricia Jenkins will hold a hearing to determine if du Pont should spend time in a mental hospital. The sentence also carries a \$50,000 fine.

Du Pont, 58, appearing in court with long, greasy, gray hair and a scraggly beard, stared dispassionately ahead when the verdict was read.

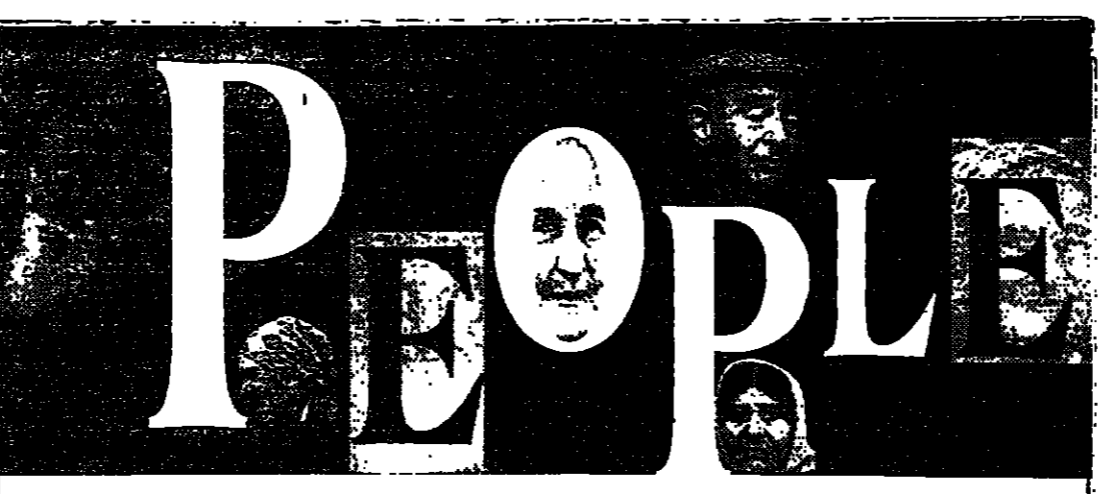
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# Alight with Albrightomania

### Residents of a small Czech town remember the US secretary of state's family, Richard Allen Greene reports

At the ripe old age of 86, Josef Koloc has started collecting business cards. In just two weeks, the retired archivist has gotten cards from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *Newsweek*, all without ever leaving his small hometown of Letohrad in eastern Bohemia. Journalist after journalist has made the pilgrimage to meet the man who, in 1994, realized the daughter of his Jewish childhood friend Josef Korbel was the United States ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright.

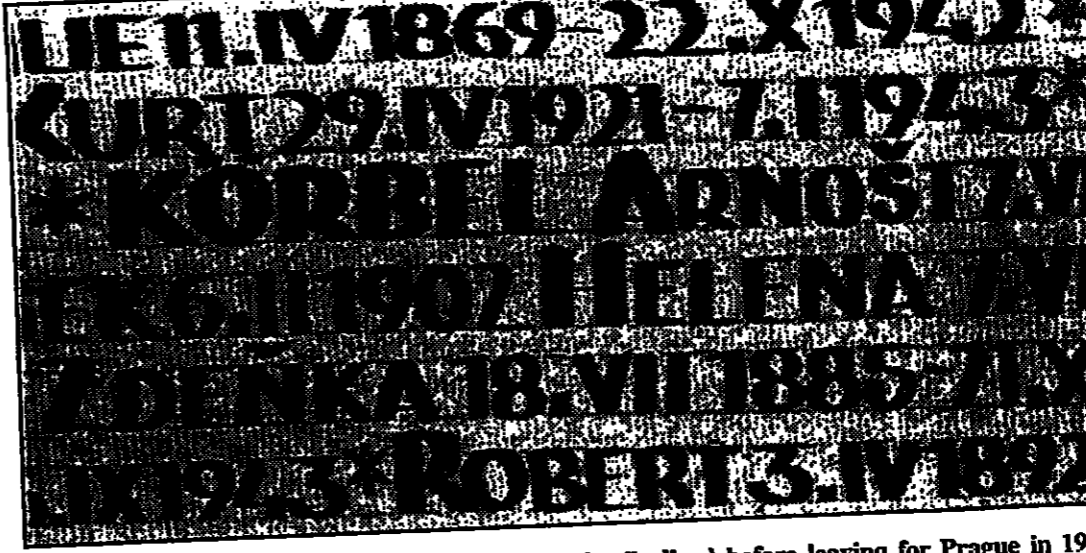
The international attention has become so intense that Letohrad's mayor, Petr Silar, is calling the phenomenon "Albrightomania." But despite having made some concessions to the Albright craze, such as preparing an Albright family tree to give to visiting reporters, local people have largely accepted the connection between their town and the new secretary of state with a shrug.

Much attention has been paid to the discovery that Albright, who was raised as a Catholic by her Czech emigre parents, was of Jewish origin and had as many as a dozen relatives die in concentration camps during World War II. Although Silar wrote no fewer than four letters to Albright, and arranged to have a message left on her answering machine in New York in 1994, Albright has said that she only learned of her Jewish heritage early this month.

"It's possible that she didn't know," admitted Silar. "It's possible the letters just went past her. We wrote to her in Czech, not English." (Albright in fact reportedly speaks good Czech.)

Magdalena Navratilova, a town-hall administrator responsible for education and cultural activities, said that Koloc was the first to make the connection between the local Korbel family and Albright.

"Our first letter [to Albright, in February 1994] was at his initiative," she said. "Koloc used to come to our office every day to see if we had gotten an answer. [When we didn't,] we got her telephone number through official channels



Josef Koloc outside the home where Albright's family lived before leaving for Prague in 1928 (top); Korbel, the name of Albright's paternal grandfather, on a memorial wall - in Prague's Pinkas synagogue - for Czech Jews who perished in the Holocaust (above); Vera Rusprechtova with a portrait of her grandfather Jan Rejnek, who ran a business with Albright's grandfather Arnost Korbel.

"Her father was very popular, and for that reason we are happy she has done well," she said. "We want her to know that her father was well-liked, [but] we don't want to pester her."

and left a message on her answering machine in English." Albright never answered that message, or three subsequent letters. Navratilova accepts that silence philosophically.

Korbel's refusal to draw any conclusions from reports that Albright's parents hid their Jewish origins from their daughter.

"Even in normal families there are things that are not discussed," said Silar. "As a child she was satisfied by what her parents told her [about her relatives dying during the war]."

Vera Rusprechtova, whose grandfather was a business partner of Arnost Korbel, Josef's father and Albright's grandfather, refused to even talk about the family's Judaism.

"They were just like everyone else. Arnost was a real Czech patriot," she said. She remembers that the match factory co-owned by her grandfather and Arnost Korbel put the faces of composer Bedrich Smetana and writer Bozena Nemcova on matchboxes, a strong pro-Czech political statement when Bohemia was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

Town historian Miroslav Machek pointed out that before the war, the Jews of Letohrad, like many Czech Jews, were deeply assimilated. "There were 10 or 12 Jewish families here [before the war], no Jewish cemetery, and no synagogue," he said. The closest Jewish cemetery was in the town of Zamberk, seven kilometers away.

Albright's parents, Josef and Mandula Korbel, fled Czechoslovakia with two-year-old Madeleine weeks after the Nazis invaded their country in 1939. They lived in England during the war and returned in 1945. Three years later, the family fled again, this time from the communist government that had seized control of Czechoslovakia. The Korbels received refugee status in the US, where Josef and Mandula lived the rest of their lives.

At some time between 1934 and 1946, the Korbels converted to Catholicism and never told their children that they had been Jews. Josef Korbel wrote in his book *My Communism* that he had fled in 1939 and 1948 because he was a democrat, not mentioning that his family was Jewish.

Having made several attempts to contact Albright to fill her in on the family history, and having gotten no response, the people of Letohrad are willing to let the matter rest. "Now we know that history doesn't interest her," said Silar. "People who are in politics have such problems on a day-to-day basis that they don't have enough time for personal issues."

"We are proud that someone from our country is in the Clinton government," concluded Koloc. "I don't know if she feels the same connection to us that we feel to her. She hasn't contacted us, so it seems that she doesn't."

## China revives revolutionary ballet

It's not easy to instill revolutionary values when your target generation regards the landlord bogeyman of communist idealism as a reasonable businessman looking for his rightful profit.

But following the 20th anniversary of the death of China's Chairman Mao Zedong and the reviving of spiritual values topping the agenda of the ruling Communist Party, propaganda officials are trying to do just that.

The latest tool is the model opera, *The White-Haired Girl* - one of only eight operas permitted by Mao's wife, Jiang Qing, to be performed during the 10 chaotic years of the Cultural Revolution.

The Shanghai Ballet Theater has revived the 1940s propaganda tale of the trials of a peasant girl whose hair turns white after she escapes from the clutches of an evil landlord who bought her when her father, a tenant farmer, failed to pay his rent.

The Beijing revival has been a sellout. But responses have been more mixed.

Twenty or 30 years ago, Chinese audiences broke down in tears over scenes such as the mistreatment of the White-Haired Girl by the landlord's aging mother. The tale provoked such emotion that when the story was first staged in the 1940s at Mao's residence base in remote western Yansu, one soldier leapt

from his seat, took out his gun and tried to shoot the landlord.

Today, the appearance of the landlord raises titters. One of the main sponsors of the revival, the China Work Committee for Nurturing the Next Generation, said its aim was to educate young people in traditional revolutionary values. "We want to give teenagers a traditional education and enrich their cultural life," a committee official said. "The *White-Haired Girl* is a story with a historical background and political content. We want children to know what life was like in the past."

The official acknowledged that the mix of traditional values in a society racing to modernize may be confusing. "Many children ask why debtors today are not so respectful to their creditors. This is not right," he said. "We cannot use a historical story to explain a current social phenomenon."

It is a muddle echoed in the audience. Wang Lizhu, 41, was given free tickets by a friend and wanted his 12-year-old daughter to see a ballet, but not necessarily a work of revolutionary propaganda. "As for children these days, they don't know anything about exploitation by the landlords or the oppression before Liberation," he said, referring to the official name for the 1949 communist victory.

"Some think that the White-Haired Girl's father must pay because he owed money to the landlord," he said. "So you can see this play can't have any political function, it's rather out of date."

Ballet critic Ou Jianping agreed. "The characters that are supposed to be ugly and vicious are no longer hateful but laughable," Ou said. "The audience laughs at them nowadays."

That wasn't quite what the sponsors, or the propaganda users who actually approved the performance, had in mind. "We are using these examples of real heroes to teach people of today to have better values," said one senior government official.

An array of opportunities to make money, often at the expense of others, has opened up with paramount leader Deng Xiaoping's market reforms. One consequence has been the rapid - and to communist leaders alarming - erosion of the spirit of altruism espoused by Mao. Such dramas as *The White-Haired Girl* ballet offer a propaganda pill more palatable to the average Chinese.

"It was very beautiful," said one middle-aged woman, who said she saw the opera many times as a child during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. "I felt very nostalgic for those times." (Reuters)

## DEAR RUTHIE

By RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie, Help! The neighbors are ready to kill me. A stray female cat has moved into my apartment building.

ing, sleeping on the neighbors' welcome mat. The cat is on heat and the neighborhood male cats are making so much noise at night that it keeps half the building awake.

I have a cat in my apartment (the only one in the building) and the neighbors blame me for "inviting" this other cat to move in.

What can I do to convince them that I'm not responsible? Frazzled Feline Fan, Jerusalem

Dear Frazzled, - If there are no grounds for your neighbors' accusations about you being somehow responsible for

## A flap about stray cats

the stray cat's habit of camping out on unwelcoming welcome mats, then you are being used as the building scapegoat.

As the only resident of the building with a live-in feline, you are an easy target at whom to aim neighborly niggardiness regarding nocturnal noise.

As such, it is likely that no straightforward explanations on your part about the mating habits of cats is going to get you off the hook where your neighbors are concerned.

Nevertheless, there are some steps you can take to alleviate your distress.

1. Try to coax the cat out of your building. Perhaps you could provide her with a makeshift welcome mat and some milk, away from your building.

Though this might not totally solve the noise problem (since the mewling of cats on heat being pursued sounds like a nursery full of howling babies - including if it's across the street), at

least the accusations would have to cease.

2. After coaxing the cat out of the building, keep the main door shut, to prevent other stray cats from coming in.

3. Translate and hang this column on the building committee bulletin board.

4. Distribute sets of earplugs for all of your neighbors with an attached photocopy of an encyclopedic description of female felines on heat - proving that neither you nor your pet are to "blame."

Dear Ruthie, I have always spoken to my children in English to make sure that they remain bilingual. But lately, my youngest (now 10) is rebelling. He only speaks to his siblings and to his father and I in Hebrew.

I feel he is doing this on purpose. I know that one day he will thank me for him having two languages under his belt. And this is why I have adopted a tactic of

ignoring him when he speaks to me in Hebrew. My husband thinks this is silly, and won't play along with me. What do you think?

At a Lingual Loss, Kfar Saba

Dear At a Lingual Loss, I think that ignoring your child is more likely to increase his desire to rebel than it is to encourage him to converse in English.

And, whether or not he is purposely speaking only in Hebrew, he undoubtedly has a great command of "passive" English due to his exposure to it. There is no reason, then, for you to force the issue.

You can continue to address your son in English, and let him respond however he likes.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns for company name, last price, and change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

Table with columns for company name, last price, and change. Includes various Israeli tech and industrial companies.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table of international shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

Table of international shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

NEW YORK

Table of New York market data with columns for company name, last price, and change.

Table of New York market data with columns for company name, last price, and change.

TASE ROUNDUP

Market unchanged despite Teva surge

Shares closed almost unchanged yesterday in mixed trading as the market continued expressing concern over the political situation, traders said.

The benchmark Mishtanim 252.72 down 0.03%. Maof 261.48 down 0.09%.

index of top 100 shares fell 0.03 percent, or 0.07 points, to 252.72 on all-share turnover of NIS 146 million against NIS 137m. on Tuesday.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Euro stocks dip

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses dipped yesterday as US central bank chief Alan Greenspan voiced concerns about soaring stock prices but his hints about a rise in interest rates boosted the dollar.

Dow falls on Greenspan warning

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks fell yesterday after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned that investors might have boosted the market too high and hinted the central bank might need to raise interest rates in coming months.

WHERE TO GO

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Table of international market data with columns for country, company name, last price, and change. Includes sections for PARIS, LONDON, NEW YORK, FRANKFURT, and DUTY HOSPITALS.







Queen Elizabeth unveils a sculpture yesterday commemorating Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who helped rescue Jews from the Nazis during World War II. The sculpture, which stands in London's Great Cumberland Place, was commissioned by the Wallenberg Appeal, a project of the International Council of Christians and Jews. (Reuters)

# Weizman: Har Homa is a logical compromise

By DOUGLAS DAVIS  
LONDON - President Ezer Weizman said yesterday he believed the decision over building on Har Homa was a "logical compromise" and warned that "if the Palestinians jeopardize what we have achieved up to now, it will not be very clever."  
On the second day of his three-day state visit to Britain, Weizman was asked how he would advise Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to respond to the Har Homa project. Weizman said he thought Arafat would be entitled "to be extremely angry, to voice his opinion, and to carry on with the peace process."  
"The parties were moving 'in the right direction,'" Weizman said, and it would be "stupid, crazy" to damage the peace process.  
Weizman also said Diaspora Jews should support the peace process. But then he added sharply, "I don't think they have a role to play. We are over our bar mitzva. We're looking after ourselves," he said. "I don't want to say, 'Don't do anything,' but we have passed our coming of age."  
Weizman's press conference came just hours after Queen Elizabeth praised "the great contribution which Jewish families have made to our national life since the days of the Norman kings."  
Addressing a state banquet for Weizman at Buckingham Palace, the queen recalled Britain's strong personal connections with previous Israeli presidents, including his uncle and Israel's first president, Chaim Weizman, and his immediate predecessor, Chaim Herzog, who was born in Belfast and served with the British Army in World War II.

The queen praised Weizman's "personal contribution to the quest for peace," which she said had been "unstinting, steadfast and greatly admired by your British friends."  
Weizman, whose visit has attracted small knots of demonstrators protesting about the treatment of Mordechai Vanunu, who was convicted of espionage after passing nuclear secrets to the London newspaper *The Sunday Times*, was adamant that he would not grant a presidential pardon. "I don't think he deserves it," said Weizman. "He caused us damage. He was a traitor to his country. Period."  
Earlier in the day, Weizman met opposition Labor Party leader Tony Blair and Labor foreign affairs spokesman Robin Cook. He also visited the Governor of the Bank of England Eddie George, accompanied by Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel.  
Weizman lunched with Prime Minister John Major at Downing Street and, with the queen, unveiled a statue honoring Swedish wartime diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews by issuing them with false papers.  
"We are deeply saddened, not only by the fact that Raoul Wallenberg never had the opportunity to meet with those he saved," said Weizman, "nor was he personally thanked, but also because his fate remains a mystery due to his brutal abduction."  
Wallenberg was arrested in Hungary by the Soviet army and reportedly died in jail in the 1950s.  
Also attending the ceremony was Sweden's Princess Christina, Hungarian Culture Minister Balint Magyar, and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and his wife, Nene, a niece of Wallenberg.

# Swiss agree to Holocaust fund

ZURICH (Reuters) - The Swiss government yesterday gave final approval to a Holocaust memorial fund that gives world Jewish groups a big say in how to distribute million of dollars in humanitarian aid to survivors.  
The World Jewish Congress (WJC), which has led international criticism of Swiss banks and the Swiss financial role in World War II, welcomed the decision as a big step toward better Jewish-Swiss relations after months of bitter wrangling.  
Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti told reporters that the Federal Council, or cabinet, approved a decree that sets up the fund on March 1 after agreeing how to administer the pool of cash at talks earlier this week with the WJC and Israeli representatives.  
"These talks led to a proposal for a solution which today was approved by the Federal Council," Cotti told reporters in Bern after a cabinet meeting.  
Cotti did not say whether the gov-

ernment was closer to a decision on whether it will also pay into the fund, a choice it has delayed making until around mid-year.  
A government statement said the fund could be expanded with more donations expected from Swiss companies and its creation did not rule out setting up a broader Holocaust memorial foundation, which Bern is planning at a later date.  
"This is a big step toward improving relations between the WJC and Swiss authorities," WJC assistant secretary general Maram Stern told Reuters.  
The WJC and other critics, including US Senator Alfonse D'Amato, have accused Swiss banks of sitting on accounts left by victims of Nazi genocide and the country as a whole of profiting cynically from its neutral status in World War II.  
The government agreed on February 12 to explore with Jewish groups how to administer humanitarian aid to Holocaust sur-

vivors from a fund launched with a donation of SFr 100 million from Switzerland's three biggest banks.  
"The Federal Council will have overall supervision of the fund," the cabinet decree said.  
"The object of the fund is to support needy persons who were persecuted because of their race, religion or political views or...otherwise were victims of the Holocaust/Shoah, as well as to support their descendants in need," the decree read.  
Officials have said a large part of the money will likely go to Jewish groups and individuals in eastern Europe who were cut off from compensation for decades by the former Iron Curtain.  
The decree sets up a board of seven directors, four of them Swiss to be named by Bern and three to be named by the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO), an umbrella group of major Jewish organizations and the State of Israel.

### WEATHER

Haifa 9-18	Tiberias 7-19
Afula 5-18	Samarha 9-12
Tel Aviv 8-16	Jerusalem 2-11
Bearshaba 7-17	Dead Sea 12-20
Eilat 6-21	Golden 1-10

Forecast: Partly to partly cloudy

### AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Wind
Amsterdam	48	54	rain
Berlin	41	50	rain
Buenos Aires	59	68	clear
Chicago	32	38	clear
Copenhagen	35	42	clear
Frankfurt	38	46	rain
Geneva	38	46	rain
Hamburg	40	48	rain
Hong Kong	70	77	clear
London	44	52	partly cloudy
Los Angeles	54	62	clear
Madrid	54	62	clear
Moscow	28	35	rain
New York	32	40	clear
Paris	38	46	clear
Rome	38	46	clear
Stockholm	32	40	clear
Sydney	68	76	clear
Tokyo	54	62	clear
Toronto	32	40	clear
Vancouver	48	56	rain
Zurich	48	56	rain

# 'Rabin-Shas deal not like Bar-On'

## BAR-ON

By MICHAL YUDELMAN  
Former *Davar* journalist Amir Neuman said yesterday there's no similarity between his report of more than three years ago, in which he said a deal was struck between Shas and prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's government linking a hearing on Aryeh Deri's Knesset immunity and the Oslo agreement, and the alleged back-room dealings of the Bar-On affair.  
The issue was raised yesterday by the Israeli newspaper *Yated Ne'eman*, which said the "Labor government conspired to postpone Deri's trial in exchange for Shas's support in the Oslo agreement - yet the police failed to open an investigation." The newspaper said Labor got away with its deal, but the authorities have come down on the Bar-On affair because it involves the political right.  
*Yated Ne'eman* referred to a story that first appeared in *Davar* three and a half years ago. *Davar* reported an idea - which never took off - to postpone the removal of Shas leader Deri's Knesset immunity in exchange for Shas's support in the Oslo agreement.  
*Yated Ne'eman* said the *Davar* story was almost identical to the Bar-On affair.  
Reporter Neuman said yesterday that although Rabin's government had a Knesset majority, it sought

desperately to increase support for the Oslo agreement. Among the many ideas bandied about at the time was one to put off the debate on the removal of Deri's immunity by a few weeks to secure Shas's support.  
Deri had already resigned from the cabinet, in keeping with his agreement with Rabin. But Shas was still in the coalition and Labor constantly courted it, Neuman said.  
"The bottom line is, nothing came of it," Neuman said. "The idea met with the rejection of everyone who heard it. It wouldn't have passed the Knesset Committee. Committee Chairman MK Hagai Merom wasn't even approached. On the assumption that he would oppose it, Merom was determined to start the debate [on removing Deri's immunity] on schedule. MKs Ran Cohen and Avraham Poraz also objected."  
Even Deri wasn't interested, said Neuman, "because a couple of weeks' delay in the removal of his immunity would have given him nothing. He had already quit the cabinet."  
Labor spokesman Yoram Dori said the story was denied by all parties at the time. "It's a pity that after three years Neuman isn't admitting that he was misled," Dori said.  
Labor sources said that if Neuman's story was so scandalous, why didn't the Likud and opposition parties demand an investigation at the time it was published, instead of claiming a "double standard" three and a half years later.

# The story behind attacks on Barak

## BACKGROUND

By BATSHEVA TSUR  
The attacks on Chief Justice Aharon Barak by Bar Association head Dror Hoter-Yishai are merely the resurfacing of personal animosity, a source close to Barak said yesterday.  
"Barak's behavior was not normative behavior for a well-regulated society... Taking a stand on the appointment of the attorney-general [by the chief justice] is a sign that there is no proper division of powers between the judiciary and the executive," Hoter-Yishai reiterated yesterday, on Educational TV's *Erev Hadash*. On Monday, he had slammed Barak in a similar fashion.  
On previous occasions, Hoter-Yishai has charged that Barak is more interested in publishing than in judging, the source said. He has even blamed Barak for the suicide of persons against whom he ruled in court. This, the source said, is simply based on personal animosity and not legal norms.  
"Barak's first duty is to serve the public's interest. No one is forced to accept his opinion and, in the Bar-On case, his opinion was disregarded," the source said. "Normative behavior in a well-regulated society is to accept such an opinion by the chief justice," he added.  
It is now up to the police to decide whether the nuances of the conversation between Barak and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi were portrayed accurately to the cabinet, the source added.  
Former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair also came to Barak's assistance.  
"For the past two years, there has been a growing tendency to blame the judiciary for all kinds of ills," Ben-Yair said on Israel Radio. "This is a serious warning light which Israeli society can not ignore," he added, saying that he agreed to be interviewed only because the chief justice could not defend himself.

### Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 10 of spades, the 8 of hearts, the 10 of diamonds and the 7 of clubs.

# PM's backers plan strategy for Likud meeting

By MICHAL YUDELMAN  
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's supporters are acting to turn the Likud's Central Committee meeting on Sunday into a demonstration of support for the prime minister.  
The committee meeting, initially scheduled for Sunday of this week, was put off ostensibly due to the bad weather. But leading Likud activists said the real reason for the delay was Netanyahu's fears of being attacked and criticized for his policy by Minister Ariel Sharon and MKs Benny Begin, Uzi Landau, Ruby Rivlin and others.  
The meeting was postponed in the hope that the decision to build in Har Homa this week would muster support for Netanyahu among the committee members.  
Netanyahu also has been holding a series of private meetings with ministers and coalition MKs, whom he is asking to support him publicly or at least to tone down their public criticism of him over the alleged Bar-On affair.  
After meeting Likud MKs Meir Sheerit and Ze'ev Boim earlier this week, the prime minister today met National Religious Party ministers Zevulun Hammer and Yitzhak Levy. Afterwards Netanyahu met Yisrael Ba'aliya ministers Natan Sharansky and Yuli Edelstein, who have been criticizing Netanyahu's behavior in the affair sharply.  
The demonstration of confidence continued at a surprise birthday party held for Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday, at which the prime minister tried to dispense suspicions of a rift between the two over the Bar-On affair.

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### The Public Committee considering Methods for Appointing the Attorney-General, and Matters connected with the Post

## NOTICE

On February 13, 1997, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Tzahi Hanegbi, appointed a public committee, to consider in all aspects the criteria by which the qualifications of a candidate for the post of attorney-general should be considered, the method for submitting candidates' names, the method of appointing the attorney-general, the period for which the attorney-general should serve, and the method by which the committee's conclusions should be implemented - by legislation or otherwise.

The committee's terms of reference also include making recommendations on any matter relevant to the attorney-general's fulfillment of his duties.

The members of the committee are Judge Meir Shamgar (retired), Prof. Ruth Gabison, Prof. David Libai, Mr. Moshe Nissim, Adv., and Mr. Haim Zadok, Adv.

Anyone who wishes to submit proposals or comments is requested to do so in writing. Letters should be addressed to: The Public Committee considering Methods for Appointing the Attorney-General, 29 Salah A-Din St., Jerusalem 91010.

The Committee will decide whether it wishes to invite anyone who submits recommendations to appear before it.

Meir Shamgar  
Chairman of the Committee